

AGN. NO.

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
AND JANICE HAHN

March 12, 2019

Mobile Stroke Unit Funding for South Los Angeles

The Mobile Stroke Unit (MSU) is an advanced, modified ambulance equipped with a mobile computerized tomography (CT) scanner and point-of-care laboratory testing equipment, telemedicine connection, as well as clinical assessment tools and medications. Essential medical personnel who are dispatched in the field on the MSU include a critical care nurse, CT technician, paramedic, and physician stroke specialist (neurologist). The intent of the MSU program is to provide early clinical assessment and treatment for stroke patients by responding directly to the 9-1-1 emergency call for assistance. An evaluation is currently assessing whether this program can improve health outcomes and efficiency of care for patients experiencing a stroke.

The MSU is owned and operated by the Regents of the University of California on behalf of its Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center/UCLA Health (UCLA Health). It is one of six MSU programs in the nation, all of which are participating in a national

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research study. The research study is supported through the Memorial Hermann Texas Medical Center and the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute.

There are two current geographic sites for clinical operations. One of the sites is in the western region of Los Angeles County (County) and the other includes locations in the southern part of the County, such as Long Beach, but there is currently no coverage for large portions of the southern region of the County, which includes South Los Angeles and the South Bay.

The Arline and Henry Gluck Foundation provided philanthropic funding to UCLA Health that allowed for the purchase of the MSU, the equipment and supplies and start-up costs for the first 18 months of the anticipated 36-month trial study. Based on a motion by Supervisors Janice Hahn and Mark Ridley-Thomas on June 26, 2017, the County provided \$1.46 million in Measure B funds through a contract to allow for additional hours of operation and expansion to the southern part of the County.

For 197 operating days during the period September 11, 2017 – July 31, 2018, the MSU assessed 221 patients as part of the study protocol. Of these patients, 45 have qualified for admission, treatment and transport by the MSU. Of the 45 patients evaluated, 30 patients were diagnosed with ischemic stroke (lack of blood flow to the tissue of the brain) and 8 of these patients qualified for the clot busting medication, tPA (medication to treat ischemic stroke). The median time for these patients to receive tPA was 46 minutes from dispatch to drug administration. Other patients assessed and diagnosed included patients with bleeding in the brain, brain tumor and seizures.

The Department of Health Services has investigated the potential of expanding the hours of operation of the MSU to provide services in additional key areas of the County where stroke is prevalent and that currently do not have the benefit of receiving services from the MSU. Specifically, the County has determined that additional funding would permit the MSU to extend operations into Torrance and surrounding regions of the southern portion of the County three additional days per week. This would enable a new segment of the County's population to benefit from the MSU program.

WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Instruct the Director of the Department of Health Services (DHS) to allocate up to \$1,745,000, based on estimated costs, in one-time Measure B funding to be used for the UCLA Health Mobile Stroke Unit, specifically to expand existing services by increasing staffing, and covering the costs for increased supplies and medication to operate on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, for 10 hours each day in and around the City of Torrance for a 12-month period, beginning June 1, 2019 through May 31, 2020 and extending operations on the other four days per week (Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays) for an additional five-month period, beginning January 1, 2020 through May 31, 2020.
2. Instruct the Director of DHS to coordinate the Mobile Stroke Unit hours and area of operations with the appropriate jurisdictional provider agencies needed to expand the Mobile Stroke Unit area of operations.

3. Delegate authority to the Director of DHS to amend the current agreement with the Regents of the University of California on behalf of its Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center/UCLA Health to include the funding required for these additional days and hours of operations.
4. Instruct the Director of DHS to report back to the Board of Supervisors in writing on the status of the UCLA Health Mobile Stroke Unit program within six months.

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(CC/MH)